

562.3
C76
1887/88

UNIV OF MICH

APR 14 1908

THIRTY-FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CONNECTICUT SCHOOL FOR IMBECILES,
TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
JANUARY SESSION, 1889.

THIRTY-FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CONNECTICUT SCHOOL FOR IMBECILES,
TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
JANUARY SESSION, 1889.

HARTFORD, CONN.:
PRESS OF THE CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD COMPANY.
1889.

State of Connecticut.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL S. ROBBINS.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

WILLIAM H. BARNUM,

G. W. RUSSELL.

DIRECTORS.

S. S. ROBBINS,
C. B. MERRIMAN,
GEO. B. BURRALL,
H. M. WELCH,
HENRY GAY,
G. W. RUSSELL,
PHINEAS LOUNSBURY,
JAMES E. ENGLISH,

W. H. BARNUM,
ROBBINS BATTELL,
WM. H. WALTON,
W. W. KNIGHT,
L. H. REID,
H. B. HARRISON,
J. C. GODDARD,
M. G. BULKELEY.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

G. B. BURRALL,

W. H. WALTON,

L. H. REID.

GEO. B. BURRALL, *Treasurer.*

GEO. H. KNIGHT, *Secretary and Superintendent.*

WM. H. WALTON, *Auditor.*

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

To the Honorable General Assembly:

We hereby transmit to your honorable body, this the Thirty-first Annual Report of the "Connecticut School for Imbeciles."

The number of pupils during the year ending October 1, 1888, as will be seen by the report of the Superintendent, is one hundred and forty-two.

The number of State beneficiaries is one hundred and two. The amount received from the State for their support, including \$104 for the care of a harmless lunatic, is \$11,006.55, as follows:

For quarter ending Sept. 30, 1887,	.	.	.	\$2,364.27
For quarter ending Dec. 31, 1887,	.	.	.	2,715.68
For quarter ending March 31, 1888,	.	.	.	2,867.78
For quarter ending June 30, 1888,	.	.	.	3,058.82
Total income during the year,	.	.	.	\$27,429.52

The balance of our income is derived wholly from tuitions from towns and individuals.

Since our last report to you the number of children in our institution has been largely increased.

The removal of the custodial girls into the new building which was so generously appropriated by your honorable body three years ago, allowed us to receive into our school-building proper more children of the school-attending age.

The appropriation which was made by you at the last General Assembly has been used to provide the new boiler-house and boilers, the expense of which, as will be seen by the accompanying report, was \$4,000. The sanitary which was to have been built has not been erected. For upon looking at the matter more closely, it was found it could not be attached to the boiler-

house, and be convenient to both classes of children. It was therefore thought best not to erect that building, but to ask the next legislature to allow us to build our lavatory where it would best meet our needs.

Therefore, we respectfully ask the coming legislature to pass an act permitting us to use the unexpended money in erecting a lavatory where it will be most accessible to all our children.

On another page will be found the report of the treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

S. S. ROBBINS,
Pres. Board of Trustees.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following statement of the special appropriation of \$5,000 made by the General Assembly of 1887 to the Connecticut School for Imbeciles, is respectfully submitted :

DR.

October 11, 1887, State appropriation in part,	\$500.00
November 11, 1887, State appropriation in part,	800.00
March 10, 1888, State appropriation in part,	1,000.00
May 17, 1888, State appropriation in part,	1,700.00
	\$4,000.00

CR.

May 22, 1888, By paid bills for labor to date, as per voucher,	\$1,341.24
“ “ Lime Rock Iron Company (Fire Brick),	25.10
“ “ B. F. Hoyt (Iron Roofing),	129.99
“ “ E. W. Spurr (Lumber and Brick),	648.71
“ “ To material and labor, per voucher,	60.00
June 9, 1888, Robbins, Gamwell & Co. (Boilers, etc.),	1,700.00
“ “ Connecticut Western Railroad Co. (Freight),	38.58
	\$3,943.62

Balance to new account, . . . \$56.38

G. B. BURRALL,

Treasurer.

LAKEVILLE, Sept. 14, 1888.

We hereby certify that we have examined the accounts of G. B. Burrall, Esq., Treasurer of the “Connecticut School for Imbeciles,” with reference to the special appropriation of five thousand dollars made by the General Assembly of 1887, for new boiler-house and lavatory, compared the vouchers therewith, and find the same correct; showing a balance in the hands of the treasurer of fifty-six dollars and thirty-eight cents at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, four thousand dollars only of said appropriation having been drawn by said treasurer.

FRANK L. ROGERS, } *Auditors of*
JOHN E. SCANLAN, } *Public Accounts.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Directors :

I hereby submit the Thirty-first Annual Report of the "Connecticut School for Imbeciles."

There have been connected with the school during the year ending Oct. 1, 1888, one hundred and forty-two children; present number, one hundred and twenty-eight. Number of State beneficiaries, one hundred and two. Of the one hundred and forty-two children, thirty-five were admitted the last year, six have been dismissed, three have not returned from their summer vacation, and five have died. Of these, three died of convulsions, one of croupus diphtheria, and one of congestion of the brain. With the exception of an epidemic of diphtheria which visited our institution last winter, the health of the children has been very good. The number of cases attacked with diphtheria were thirty-three, and we congratulate ourselves on reporting but one death. This is practically the first epidemic which has occurred in the history of our institution, and it was hardly expected that we would escape when diphtheria was so prevalent in our own and surrounding towns. No specific cause was found for this trouble; it was brought to us by one who was then employed in the institution doing some repairing.

Report of the school work is as follows :

Number attending school,	.	.	.	70
Articulation class,	.	.	.	35
Cards and chart reading,	.	.	.	35
First Reader,	.	.	.	8
Second Reader,	.	.	.	3
Third Reader.	.	.	.	10
Fourth Reader,	.	.	.	8

History,	3
Counting to five and learning figures,	11
Counting to ten and learning figures,	11
Counting to one hundred and adding little examples,	15
Written arithmetic,	14
Higher arithmetic,	1
Algebra,	1
Geography orally,	18
Geography from books,	19
Primary,	7
Mitchell's Intermediate,	9
Advanced,	3
Writing on slates,	10
Writing in books,	42
Writing letters,	20
Spelling,	16
Drawing,	15
Water-coloring outline pictures,	2
With colored crayons,	2
Dancing,	70
Kindergarten,	27
Class in gifts, 1, 2, and 3,	12
Paper-folding,	10
Stick-laying and rings,	16
Clay modeling,	13
Stringing beads,	14
Weaving mats,	11
Card sewing,	15
Color and number lessons,	14
Singing,	38
Sewing,	21
Crocheting,	9
Knit,	2
Outlining,	4
Laundry,	5

I have included in the report this year a few of the letters written by the children to their friends and parents, because I

thought it would show to you better than anything I could write, some of the results obtained from our school training.

The following are fac-similes of the letters composed and written by them :

LAKEVILLE, CONN., Dec. 10, 1888.

My dear Mrs. Smith :

I will write and tell you what I have learned in school. I can read in any second reader. I learn to make figures and add numbers some. I can read in a little geography and find answers on the map. I can dance and play dumb-bells. I have learned to sew patch-work and little needle cases. I am now learning to crochet. I can make my bed, and I can do little errands. I would like to see you very much.

Your little friend,

SUSIE.

LAKEVILLE, CONN., Dec. 8, 1888.

My dear Miss B—— :

Would you like me to write you a letter and tell you how much I have improved? I read, write, and spell, study geography and arithmetic. Miss P. has taught me to crochet and I can crochet lace, little sacques, and head-rests. I have learned outlining too. I still help to make beds. I have not seen you for a long time, but I hope you are well.

From your loving girl,

EMMA.

LAKEVILLE, CONN., Dec. 1, 1888.

Dear Grandmother :

I received your letter, and you made me happy by telling me that I had improved in writing. Mr. E. asked me how old I was and I told him I was fourteen and he would not believe me. Did you have a good time on Thanksgiving and Dettie too? I will try hard to learn all I can so as to please you.

Your loving boy,

ALFRED ———.

LAKEVILLE, CONN., Dec. 2, 1888.

Dear Sister Delie :

I write you a few lines hoping that you are well and having a good time. I am very well. We have not had enough snow for coasting, but I hope we shall by Christmas. Please do not forget me and

please write me a long letter and tell me all about my friends that you know, and yourself.

From your loving brother,

JAMES ———.

LAKEVILLE, CONN., Dec. 3, 1888.

Dear Mother :

I am glad Christmas is coming, please send me a bottle of cologne also a napkin ring, some cookies to give to my school-mates, a ring and a silk handkerchief. I should love to have these things but do not know as you can send me all as you have to work so hard, but I would like them. Can not Willie come to see me sometime? I send love to Minnie and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your loving girl,

MAGGIE.

LAKEVILLE, CONN., Dec. 5, 1888.

My dear Sister :

As it is the first of the month, I thought I would write a letter to you. I have not heard from you in a long time. I am very well and hope you are. Did you have a good time on Thanksgiving? I did and hope I shall on Christmas. We are to have our Christmas tree this year and you may send me whatever you think best. I will close by wishing you a Merry Christmas.

Your loving sister,

NELLIE ———.

LAKEVILLE, CONN., Dec. 2, 1888.

My dear Sister :

I thought I would write you a few lines and see how you are getting along. Please send me a pair of ice skates, No. 6 or 7, and some picture cards. The teacher is good to me and I like her. The man that takes care of me is just good to me. Please tell me all about Oney, and Johney and Joe and Aunt Kile and a good deal about yourself. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, so good bye.

Your brother,

JAMES M ———.

LAKEVILLE, CONN., Dec. 10, 1888.

Dear Mother :

Night before last after we had gone to bed, it began snowing and yesterday when we woke up there was considerable snow. It contin-

ued to snow all day so we have a good deal. I hope we may have no more rain but some cold weather, so we can have some coasting, which I like very much. I hope my brother will be able to get some good coasting there this winter. The days are passing very quickly and Christmas will soon be here. I think we will have a very nice time here and hope you may have the same. I expect we will have a very nice tree here, like the one we had last year, which we will get a day or so before Christmas. I am very fond of books now and have read quite a number. Our evenings we pass very pleasantly playing cards with our attendant. Remember me to all, and I remain

Your loving son,

LOUIS ———.

LAKEVILLE, CONN., Dec. 6, 1888.

My dear Mother :

I have not heard from you in a long while, are you getting better? I am glad if you are. I wish you were well enough to come and see me. Will you send me some more of the Golden Days for I am very fond of reading them. My clothes fitted me very nicely, and with everything else you sent I was very much pleased. I will close by hoping to hear from you soon.

Your affectionate son,

STANLEY ———.

LAKEVILLE, Dec. 5, 1888.

Dear Dr. :

I now take the pleasure of writing you a letter as this leaves me well and in good health. Christmas is drawing near and we are getting ready for it, we are going to learn our Christmas pieces this week. I hope I will have as good a time as I had last year, we had a grand time. It snowed a little this week, it looks as though it would rain or snow to-day. I had a grand time vacation at home, I went to New York twice, I went to Fort Lee on the 18th of August, it is a fine place and I saw lots of things. I saw the capitol of this State at Hartford, it is a fine building. I rode on the electric cars at Derby. I am now in school and I study arithmetic, geography, history, and spelling. These are the things we play with: dumb-bells, rings, bean-bags, clubs, may-pole, and we have plenty of dancing, I like to dance very much. We have lots of games in our sitting-rooms and in

the school-room. In the summer time we go out walking in the woods and down to the lake, and have good times in the winter sliding down hill and skating on the lake. Well, I will draw my letter to a close with good wishes. Yours truly,

WILLIE ———.

Two years ago it was found necessary to secure the services of another teacher, who should preside especially over our Kindergarten department.

This has not only been found to be of the greatest possible benefit to our smaller children, but also to the older ones, in relieving the teacher of this grade of pupils from the care of so many children, thus enabling her to give more time to their special improvement.

The classification of our children now is as complete as can be made.

Our custodials of both sexes are in buildings by themselves, and our main buildings are devoted to the care of those who are capable of receiving instruction in our school rooms.

During the past two years certain necessary improvements have been made in order to keep our buildings in good repair.

The wall supporting the front piazza of our main building has been relaid, the barns repainted, and all the plumbing thoroughly remodeled. The old cement drains have been replaced with four-inch iron pipe, and carried outside of the buildings, before being connected with the sewer, and the three sewer pipes which lead from our buildings thoroughly ventilated by means of four-inch iron pipe carried up through the roof.

A more complete idea of the repairs and improvements made can be obtained from the following table :

Provisions,	\$8,341.55
Harness and repairs,	120.05
House furnishings and clothing,	2,297.35
Express and freight,	208.30
Horse-shoeing and wagons repaired,	258.65
Wages and salaries,	10,057.39
Plumbing and repairs,	1,371.03

Beef and fish,	\$817.86
Farm account,	1,339.93
Miscellaneous,	1,021.82
House repairs,	428.15
Postage and periodicals,	221.34
Insurance on buildings,	946.10
	<hr/> \$27,429.52

The lavatory which we so much need and which was provided for by the last General Assembly, as you know, has not been erected, because it was found that it would not be convenient for all our children, if attached to our boiler-house, as called for in the bill.

There remains, therefore, in the hands of our State Treasurer, about one thousand dollars unexpended money, and I would suggest that you ask the coming legislature to pass a bill permitting us to use this money, and to place our sanitary where it will be most convenient to both sexes.

One year ago last June, the meeting of the "Association of Medical Officers of American Institutions for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Persons" was held at our Institution. All the Superintendents, except those from our western States, were present, and two representatives from Canada.

There were many interesting papers read, followed by discussions; all showing that our work is being more and more appreciated every year, and accepted as a necessary one, and that more States are considering not so much the advisability, but the necessity of establishing Institutions for this particular class of children.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the officers, teachers, and employés for the kind and efficient services rendered by them, especially during the epidemic of last winter.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. H. KNIGHT, *Superintendent.*

ADMISSION OF PUPILS.

Feeble-minded children, who are so peculiar or deficient in intellect as to be incapable of being educated at an ordinary school, may be admitted by the Superintendent.

The parents, or next friends of those in whose behalf applications are made for admission as pupils, are expected to make answer, in writing, to such questions as the Superintendent may prescribe.

All pupils will be expected to come provided with a good supply of neat and substantial clothing, of dark color, and plainly marked with the child's full name.

There will be a vacation during the months of July and August, at which period all pupils must be removed by the parents or guardians, unless otherwise directed by the Superintendent.

In case of indigence, applications may be addressed to his Excellency, the Governor, for aid from the State appropriation.

Where aid from the towns should also be afforded, application is made to the Judge of Probate of the district where the child resides. Blanks will be furnished on application.

Application for the admission of pupils, and all general correspondence, should be directed to Geo. H. Knight, M.D., Lakeville, Conn.

